

REMARKS

In response to the office action of December 29, 2009, Applicant submits the enclosed proposed amendments and remarks.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for conducting the telephone interview. Applicant has further amended the claims as discussed in the interview.

Other differences notwithstanding, Applicant believes that the claims are novel over the art of record because:

Claims 34, 38, and 48 require that the curve is formed by an elongate longitudinal section of the rail. The support is attached to the curve. The '009 reference does not show the support attached to such an elongate longitudinal section of the rail, but shows it attached to a face surface which does not extend longitudinally along the rail. Moreover, these claims further require that the curve is defined by the exterior surface of the exterior walls of the rail, and the exterior walls are defined as extending along the length of the rail. The curved portion of the '009 patent (near reference 20 of Figure 5) is not defined by an exterior surface of the exterior wall as claimed. These claims also require that the support is attached to the exterior walls of the rail, and requires that the exterior walls extend along the length of the rail. The '009 patent does not show the support being attached to a wall which extends along the length of the rail.

Claim 34 further requires that the curve is formed apart from the end face and that the support is displaced longitudinally along the rail from the end face. These limitations are not shown in the art.

Claims 35, 42, 47 and 52 require that the projection engage an interior surface of the exterior walls, and requires that the specified exterior walls extend along the length of the rail.

The projection shown in the '009 reference does not engage the interior surface of an exterior wall as claimed.

Claim 38 further requires that the end face is directed towards the roof of the vehicle, that the curve is separate from the end face, and that the support is attached to the vehicle at a position apart from the end face. These limitation are not shown in the art.

Claim 48 further requires that the end face is connected to the vehicle and that the support is attached to the vehicle apart from the end face. This configuration is not shown in the prior art.

It is believed that the claims are in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized during the entire pendency of this application to credit any overpayment and debit any amount owing, including fees for extensions of time, to Deposit Account No. 50-2720

Sincerely,

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